

# The Red Army's Deeds

## Problems of The Red Army

By Leon Trotsky.

RED divisions are over a front of vast length. Draw a line from Moscow in any direction, prolong it, and you will reach some part of the Red Army which is fighting for Soviet Russia so heroically. The organization of this army is a very good example of the efficiency of the revolution.

No wonder the war was called an examination to the people. Of course, war itself is a great barbarity, and all Socialists are bent upon its extermination. But it must be overcome; that is, circumstances must be changed so that war will become not only needless but impossible. The people cannot leap over war instantly, surrounded by the jackals of imperialism, until the mad teeth are jerked out of the mouths of these jackals. And if the people are forced to wage war, then in its capability of defense, battle and attack all the resources of the people are shown: its economic power, its strength of organization, the spiritual average of its masses, the amount of material for leadership, etc., etc.

And so, taking the question from this angle, we may say with assurance that in a land such as ours, worn out, despoiled and ruined to the last degree, no other regime could organize an army. We may now say with certainty that an army will not be successfully organized in Germany, neither by Ebert or Scheidemann. Only Communists, who have taken the power into their own hands and shown in a practical way that this power knows no interests, worries or problems other than those of the working class, will find it possible to organize an army which will become the dependable hedge of the Socialist Republic.

We commenced with the divisions of the Red Guards. Into these we accepted workers, not seldom those who took a gun into their hands for the first time. While the task was to overcome the fighting bourgeoisie, junkers, white guards, groups of students, etc., the Red Guards showed an incomparable excellence in their revolutionary spirit and determination. In a very short period Red Guard divisions spread the Soviet power to all parts of the country. But with the offensive of the Germans in February of last year the condition changed immediately. The enthusiasm of the untrained, badly armed people proved weak before the well-organized Hohenzollern divisions under junker leadership. The first battle showed this, and brought about a fall of spirits in our divisions and armies. This fall of spirits resulted in decomposition within the ranks.

Think of that period. The old army turned into an armed beggary all of Russia, filled all stations, cars, made direct attacks upon the workers on the railroads, ruined railroad property, forcefully robbed the food supplies, etc. The enemy attacked us from the west, taking the Ukraine. The Cossacks rebelled on the Don; in the East, the Czechoslovaks, and in the north Archangel was taken from us. The ring was growing tighter and tighter. Then the Mensheviks wrote about the "dying corpse" of the Soviet power. Not only the direct enemies of the working class, but some of the friends of the workers thought that there is no way out, salvation is impossible.

It was this moment of deadly danger for the revolution which gave birth to the crisis of salvation. The watchword: "The Soci-

## Three Articles Celebrating the first Anniversary of the Revolutionary Army of Russia

alist Fatherland is in danger" awakened the best that is in the laboring masses. This was the test of our revolution. Now we may say with quiet assurance that the workers' revolution has passed the test.

Where are we to get soldiers? How are we to get the peasants into the army of workers who have not yet had a breathing spell since the imperialistic war? Will the people accept universal mobilization? Where are we to get the commanding staff? Will the old officers serve the new workers' Russia? Each of these questions presented its vexations and it seemed like the crush-

has long ceased to be any question of trust on the part of the army. If there is still agitation and argument going on to create mistrust it has no practical effect. The approaching conference of our party, I do not doubt, will strengthen with its authority that system which with the aid of the best workers of the party was put into practice in the fiery experience of the war and has given until this time the very best of results.

With each new trip to the front I saw new commanders who worked hand in hand with the Communist commissaires, with complete mutual trust and respect they fulfilled their responsible work. At that time in all our numerous officer courses and academies groups of officers were organized out of the worker-peasant families and those akin to them.

The question of organized equipment of the army was also difficult, but the hardships are being overcome. They are overcome often at the cost of the portion allotted to the working masses of the land, this is undebatable. This is clear to every conscious worker. He knows that war is a terrible poverty. He feels this in his stomach, sees it in the life of his children, but he knows that war is forced upon us by the enemies of the working class and that we cannot defend ourselves with speeches and articles against the cannons and shells of imperialism.

That is why every worker appreciates the dishonest treacherous call to us on the part of the Mensheviks: "Stop the civil war." The Soviet government openly declared to the governments of all countries: "We want peace; we are prepared to buy this peace at the price of great concessions and heavy losses." To this, our direct and official proposition, we received no answer. At the time when the enemy continues its attacks and the bands of the imperialists threaten Petrograd, the Jesuit traitors tell us: "Unarm, stop the civil war." These are the same ones who in the moment of deadly danger to the proletarian revolution spoke and wrote of the "dying corpse" of the Soviet government.

The anniversary of the Red Army comes at a period of international and political circumstances which may be called promising. And the most important factor in the international situation is our Red Army. It exists, fights, chases back its enemies, grows, unites, with the determined and heroic support of tens of millions of workers and peasants.

The working class which organized such an army cannot be defeated

## The Red Army and Foreign Policy.

By G. Chicherin

OUR brave revolutionary Red Army is such a mighty factor in the foreign policy of Soviet Russia that the most resounding epithets for its praise cannot be considered exaggerations. It is needless to prove the simple truth that no matter what is the foreign policy, it cannot be successful unless it can depend upon real might. Those of us who watch our foreign policy closely may each day notice the degree of real influence which the strength of our Red Army has upon our international relations. Every military success immediately influences our foreign standing, just as the defeats, for instance the loss of Perm and Esthonia, im-

### The Red Army Celebration

In February 1918 the Red Army was created by decree of the Soviet Government; in February 1919 all Russia celebrated the first anniversary of the first army of the proletarian revolution. In an editorial, "A Year of Struggle and Achievement," the Moscow "Pravda" official organ of the Communist Party, said:

"In the work of building our army we were faced with innumerable obstacles.

"There was the terrible weariness of the masses tired out by the war of plunder; an economic break-down and a decline of labor discipline; the decay of the old army, poisoning the air and hampering the construction of a new army; civil war in the whole country, and war from without. . . .

"We were compelled with weapons in our hands to repel the treacherous blow of the enemy and at the same time to lay the foundations of a new army of the Red Republic. Truly, that was building under a rain of bullets. . . .

"Today, as we look back, we may daringly say: The chief task has been performed. The efforts of the enemy are in vain: the army has been created. . . . We may be defeated, we may be shattered, but nothing can succeed in killing the Communist Revolution. . . .

"There is still a great deal of work ahead. Forward comrades—to the work, to the struggle and victory!

"Long live the Red Army of the Revolution!

"Long live World Communism!

The articles here printed were published in celebration of the first anniversary of the Red Army.

ing of all at the very beginning. But the revolution laughed at the pessimists and sceptics; the youth of the proletariat of Petrograd and Moscow and other cities showed truly a wonderful transformation in the temper of the working masses, and above all in the red divisions, when they understood that the fight is for the life or death of the Soviet Republic.

I watched this change at first hand, under the walls of Kazan in August of last year, later on at the southern front near Voronezh and Balashov, and in other places. This wonder can be accomplished only by the revolution.

You know that in our army a strict disciplinary regime was established. War is war, an army is an army. And if we are forced to fight then we must be victorious, and victory is impossible without iron discipline. But such discipline after world imperialistic war is possible only because it finds a deep moral response in the conscience of every conscious worker, peasant and Red soldier. The conflict goes on in the name of the existence of the Worker and Peasant Republic. Every conscious soldier feels and understands that this is his fight, that deserters and grafters are traitors to the general welfare of the laboring masses, that the strictest punishment for these traitors is just and is dictated by the revolutionary honor of the laboring people. And there